महोदय, कुल मिलाकर 12 कारण थे। उनका सर्वे किया गया और इसके लिए करेक्टिव मैज़र्स लिए जा रहे हैं। इसमें मुख्य कारण यह है कि लोग अब फिक्सड पोज़ीशन फोन से मोबाइल फोन की ओर जा रहे हैं। WLL खुलने से और Cellular Services के खुलने से लोग उस तरफ जा रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Disinvestment of PSUs

*141. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Politics stalled NALCO sale' which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times', dated the 2nd November, 2002;

(b) whether disinvestment process of NALCO, EIL, RCF, Neyvelli Lignite Corporation Limited and BEML are being delayed, deliberately; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not moving fast on the disinvestment of the above PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal for disinvestment of Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML). Government has not yet decided about disinvestment in Neyveli Lignite Company Ltd. (NLC). Government has decided to defer the consideration of proposal of disinvestment in Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd. (RCF). Disinvestment in Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) and National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) are at different stages of process. In the case of NALCO, the plant visit by the Qualified Interested Parties (QIPs) was suspended due to agitation with effect from 29th October, 2002.

(c) Government implements the disinvestment programme in a manner which is conducive with market conditions and the prevailing economic environment. It follows a well defined procedure which involves extensive inter-ministerial consultation and decision making. Moreover, Government does not sell its equity holding in distress and adopts a graduated approach towards disinvestment. While sometime causing delays this approach ensures that the sales realisation is maximized and the transfer of management control to the strategic partner is successfully completed.

Poor telecom network

*151. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom network in the country is very poor and inadequate for providing phones to rural areas in the country and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the growth during the recent years has been concerntrated in urban areas; if so, the details of the teledensity in urban and rural population during the last three years;

(c) whether Karnataka figures poorly in terms of providing access to phones in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve phone services in rural areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. It is not a fact that the Telecom Network in the country is poor. However, the progress has been slow in rural areas due to inadequate availability of funds, equipments and materials alongwith fast changing technolgoies. Irregular or absence of power supply, insufficient accessibility and scattered demand have also contributed to slow and tardy growth of Telecom Network in these areas. Further the Telecom Services in rural areas have been unattractive due to low revenue and high cost per DEL (Direct Exchange Lines);